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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING HANDOUT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
Proposed Implementation of the National Guard Bureau's  
Updated Training Plan 60-1,  
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona

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The National Guard Bureau (NGB), Air National Guard (ANG) has recently initiated efforts to update their Training Plan (TP) 60-1. This updated plan addresses the NGB's management of Operation Snowbird (OSB) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB), Arizona. OSB is a program that is managed by ANG's 162nd Fighter Wing (162 FW), Detachment 1 (Det 1). Separate from OSB, routine ANG activities are conducted by the 162 FW out of the Tucson International Airport (TIA).

OSB has been in existence since 1975 and was originally designed and implemented to allow ANG units from bases located in northern latitudes (or "northern tier") to train in optimal weather conditions and vast airspace over southern Arizona, primarily during the winter months. The OSB program is hosted out of DMAFB, which is one of the U.S. Air Force's Air Combat Command (ACC) bases. The 162 FW Det 1 OSB is considered a tenant at DMAFB, and the OSB activities discussed in this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 are being addressed by Headquarters (HQ), ACC.

The 355th Fighter Wing (355 FW) completed an EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was

issued in 1978 to address the new activities occurring under OSB at DMAFB. Another NEPA document prepared since that time that incorporated evaluation of OSB activities was the 2002 *Final Environmental Assessment for the West Coast Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) Beddown*. Thus, that 2002 EA will be used as the baseline for the EA to be prepared to assess the potential impacts on the human and natural environment of the proposed implementation of the NGB TP 60-1 at DMAFB.

DMAFB provides all of the facilities and assets essential to the success of NGB's training mission. These include but are not limited to:

#### Facilities and Administration

- 13,643-foot runway
- Live Ordnance Loading Area
- Live munitions storage and build-up facilities
- Bulk Fuel Storage/Loading Area
- On-base medical, lodging, and dining facilities
- On-base master mechanics and maintenance staff for the A-10 and F-16 aircraft



### Infrastructure Assets

- Secure communications
- Data link infrastructure
- Dedicated aerospace ground equipment (AGE)
- Access to existing engine analysis laboratory
- Existing, dedicated ramp space

### Safety and Operational Assets

- Crash/Fire/Rescue response unit
- Immediate access to hydrazine storage and emergency response for F-16 aircraft
- Existing Anti-terrorism and Force Protection systems
- Close proximity to available military airspace and enhanced electronic tactical ranges

The NGB and ACC, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential effects of the implementation of the NGB TP 60-1 at DMAFB. The EA will assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts, adverse and beneficial, of all reasonable alternatives that satisfy the NGB's purpose and need for the training mission. The No Action Alternative, as required by NEPA, will also be considered in the EA. The No Action Alternative would maintain the level and types of aircraft that were included as part of the 2002 EA. The EA will provide information on all reasonable alternatives with regards to existing conditions and present use, and potential cumulative effects to socioeconomic and environmental concerns.

The public scoping meeting is being conducted to provide a forum that allows the public to make comments and provide input relevant to the proposed action, alternatives and proposed areas of analysis. In addition, the meeting provides a forum for the Air Force to discuss the NEPA process and the alternatives currently being considered.

The public is invited to attend the informal meeting and ask questions or provide comments regarding the proposed action and the alternatives being reviewed. It is requested that all comments be provided either be provided on the attached comment sheet, or sent via e-mail to DMAFB at [355wgpa@dm.af.mil](mailto:355wgpa@dm.af.mil). All comments will be considered during the preparation of the EA. Please refer questions to officials attending the public meeting. Information about OSB will be provided on DMAFB's website at the following: [http://www.dm.af.mil/library/operation\\_snowbirdenvironmentalassessment.asp](http://www.dm.af.mil/library/operation_snowbirdenvironmentalassessment.asp) Written comments following the public meeting will be accepted through 26 October 2011 and can be sent to the DMAFB Public Affairs Office at the following address:

ATTN: OSB EA COMMENT SUBMITTAL, 355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, 3180 S. First Street, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ 85707

